THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (b) Development of Tourism is a continuous process. The Central Government extends financial assistance to the State Governments for augmentation of infrastructural facilities at important tourist centres as well as to publicise them. The schemes for augmentation of tourism infrastructure include construction of tourist bungalows, tourist complexes, yatri niwases, wayside facilities, tourist reception centres, beach resorts and tented accommodation. Funds are also provided for the purchase of adventure sports equipment such as water sports, trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing and aero sports etc.

The number of projects sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan and till date alongwith funds sanctioned and released thereof are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	No. of Projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
7th Plan	370	5713.54	4740.80
1990-91	191	2805.72	1593.83
1991-92	274	3651.29	1937.95
1992-93	94	1315.02	642.71

Light Transport Aircraft Project

3378. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are committed to back the Light Transport Aircraft Project and allow investment in it;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have plan to provide necessary protection to the proposed industry against foreign competition ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A project for development of Light Transport Aircraft at the National Aeronautical Laboratory has been approved by the Governing body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The National Aeronatical Laboratory has sought an assistance of Rs. 20.00 crores from Government as part contribution for the project. No financial commitment has, however, been made by CSIR/Government, on this account so far. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has not sought from the Government any protection against foreign competition for the project.

Effect of Free Convertibility of Rupee on Hotel Tariff

3379. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the travel trade have asked Government to ensure that following the free convertibility of the Rupee, the hotel tariff should also be in Indian currency as otherwise India would be priced out, as per a newsitem titled "Hoteliers' plea on tariff which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) With the

recent amendment of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) 1973, foreign nationals resident outside India are at liberty to make payments to hotels in India either in foreign currency or in Indian currency. Government does not regulate hotel tariff and hotels are free to fix the tariff on their own.

Helicopter service to Garhwal region

3380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared a proposal for helicopter service linking the tourist resort of Mussoorie and other places of pilgrim importance, having potential for tourism in the Garhwal region; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the services including the base for the helicopter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Pawan Hans has entered into an agreement for wetleasing a helicopter to a private agency for operating services in the Garhwal region.

(b) The agency proposes to operate helicopter services on the Rishikesh-Badrinath-Kedarnath sectors with a helicopter based at Dehradun.

Domestic air services in country

3381. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow Jet Air to plan domestic services in collaboration with Gulf Air; and

(b) if so, what are the details including its impact on Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The application of Jet Air for grant of an air taxi permit is under examination.

Withdrawal of VOR from Bangalore airport

3382. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines pilots owing allegiance to the Indian Commercial Pilots Association, have threatened in resort "no to night flying" from and to Bangalore airport following the withdrawal of VOR by HAL from the airport;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Following the withdrawal of VOR by National Airports Authority for replacement with DVOR, Indian Commercial Pilots Association has intimated Indian Airlines that it would not be possible for their pilots to land during night at the "09" end of the runway; however, they would land on the "27" end of the runway provided the prevailing winds are within the permissible limits;

(b) and (c) Instrument Landing System is available on the "027" end of the runway and serves as an additional landing aid. Even on "09" end of the runway there are other navigational aids. Therefore operation of flights at Bangalore is reasonably assured even without VOR. Besides a more reliable form of VOR namely DVOR is expected to be installed by 30th April 1993.

Closing down of business by Hotel Samrat with Indian Airlines

3383. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hotel Samrat, New Delhi is closing down its business with Indian Airlines for want of